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PATENT APPLICATION FOR:

5           Title:       **MEANS AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROL OF  
                          REMOTE ELECTRICAL DEVICES**

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S.  
Provisional Application(s) No(s) 60/142,109 filed July 2,  
1999.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### *Field of the Invention*

The present invention relates to control of  
5 remote devices, and in particular, control of  
remotely located electrical equipment, including but  
not limited to, lighting systems.

### *Problems in the Art*

Large area lighting systems are well known in  
10 the art. They can take many different forms. From  
baseball diamonds to playgrounds, to parking lots,  
to golf courses; large area lighting systems are all  
around in today's society.

In some instances, the lighting system is  
15 turned on and off automatically by timers, photo  
detectors, or other devices. This works reasonably  
well if the lights are used on a regular schedule or  
according to regularly repeating occurrences. In  
other cases, employees, staff members, or other  
20 persons must be hired or have the obligation to turn  
on and off the lights, particularly if the lights  
are used or needed only sporadically. Most of the  
time the person maintaining the lights will have to  
take care of several keys for several lights. These

people usually travel back and forth between the field and his/her home and even field to field because the lighting is commonly used during non-business hours. In the time it takes a staff member  
5 to travel, the lights have been unnecessarily left on. Such a problem is further compounded when the staff member is not informed that the lights are no longer needed for a certain event. When the lights are not turned off, this results in a waste of  
10 energy. This waste usually results in a waste of taxpayer's money. The waste of taxpayer money is furthered by the presence of vandalism, which often occurs to remote lighting systems.

An ancillary problem with manual control of  
15 large area lighting systems is that the person in charge normally must handle keys for the electrical boxes or buildings in which the switches or breakers are located to turn the lights on and off. Access by the public at large to the switches is usually  
20 blocked for safety, economic, and practical reasons. Such keys must to carefully handles and be available to control the lights. This can be cumbersome.

There has been some work done with computerized control of electrical loads or systems. The  
25 computer can have a database of instructions that could include turning a device on or off. The

computer could utilize its internal clock or other  
criteria to issue commands. However, such systems  
generally require a dedicated computer to control  
each device or no more than several devices at a  
5 location. Such systems also generally require  
special interactive software developed for each  
application. To change operation of the computer it  
must be reprogrammed, or new software must be  
installed. Either case requires significant time  
10 and expense.

Some attempts at remote control have been made.  
One example uses established paging systems as the  
carrier of instructions to remotely located devices  
which are to be controlled. Paging systems are  
15 attractive because they have currently developed to  
a point where they can carry a significant amount of  
digital data instructions. However, they can be  
somewhat costly, including communication costs.

The paging system could include a central  
20 repository of instructions. Control of remote  
devices based on the central repository is  
accomplished by sending out paging messages with  
control instructions carried therein to a paging  
receiver at the remote device. While this can  
25 eliminate many of the problems associated with other  
methods of operating lighting systems, a major

deficiency with paging systems presently exists. In the United States, paging systems cover most densely populated geographic areas. Most major-sized cities have good coverage. However, coverage is lacking in many other places. Of course, electrical devices, including large area lighting systems, are not limited to big cities. In fact, the need for remote control of devices may be more urgent in less densely populated areas. Thus, while paging systems offer some promise, they simply will not work in some areas because paging communications do not reach those areas.

Furthermore, paging systems tend to be one-way only, and therefore of limited capacity and options. Two-way paging is presently only in development. Digital paging systems are also in development, but it is estimated that infrastructure for substantial geographic coverage is several decades away.

Remote control of devices using DTMF signaling is in use. An example is remote control of the functions of an answering machine by pressing different telephone keys. This can be accomplished over regular or cellular phones. However, because it involves establishing a telephone connection with the remote device, it must use the voice channels. This is not satisfactory. Voice channels are not

always available. They can be unreliable. This also involves the cost of using the voice channel while communicating the instructions.

A wireless communications system with more  
5 geographical coverage is the cellular telephone system. It is attractive because of this broader geographic coverage and its existent infrastructure. Therefore, like the paging network, capital costs of developing and installing a new  
10 infrastructure could be avoided. It is also attractive because it has a built-in confirmation function. However, it is extremely limited in the data that it can carry, especially out to remote devices, without invoking its voice channels. For  
15 example, because of inherent limitation in the present cellular communications protocol in the USA (Advanced Mobile Phone Service or AMPS), it may be able to carry only three digits of instructions in each call via the last four digits on each cellular  
20 phone's Mobile Identification Number (MIN), a ten digit number in the form of a conventional telephone number; i.e. abc-def-wxyz, where a,b,c,d,e,f,w,x,y, and z are a single digit including and between 0 and 9, and where abc is the area code (three digits),  
25 def is the identification of the local central switching office (CTO) for the land based telephone

system (three digits), and wxyz is a four digit identification for the phone (equivalent to the "line" number in conventional phone systems). This is well-known and widely documented.

5 Under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, two cellular phone carriers for each geographic area are each given 416 duplex voice channels, and 21 control channels. Carrier 1's channels are called the A channels and carrier 2's  
10 channels are called the B channels. Forward control channels (FOCC's) are from the cell base station to a cell phone; reverse control channels (RECC's) are from the phones to the base station. Under AMPS protocol, up to three digits in the MIN can be  
15 used for carrying data on the forward control channels.

An advantage of using the control channels of AMPS is that the messages are cheap because they are short and do not involve the voice channels. Also  
20 the control channels are transmitted at higher power than the voice channels, have better error correction and better frequency use, and have less traffic. Therefore, they are more reliable as a communication link.

25 Therefore, current cellular telephone systems and protocols (e.g. Advanced Mobile Phone System



(AMPS) in North America; other similar analog systems are NAMPS and ENAMPS) are simply unacceptable because of the limitation of information that could be included as instructions  
5 or control in cellular calls.

To have meaningful control of remote devices usually requires communication of more than three digits of instructions. At a minimum, this limitation would not allow an acceptable of level of  
10 flexibility for many applications.

Also, the utilization of MINs to both serve to instigate a cellular call and, with the same number, effect an operation (e.g. turning lights on or off) at a remote site is not indicated as a realistic use  
15 of MINs or the cellular network.

One example of a cellular telephony based remote control system is that of Cellemetry of Atlanta, Georgia. It provides the means of sending short, telemetry-like messages over the cellular  
20 telephone system. Examples include reporting (a) alarm panel status, (b) utility meter readings, (c) vehicle and trailer location, and (d) vending machine status. It does utilize the overhead control channels (FOCC's and RECC's) of cellular  
25 telephone systems to communicate the information. However, its primary uses involve transmitting data

or information or status from remote locations to a central location.

One specific example involves soft drink vending machines. Reports can be communicated to a central location regarding how much product has been sold and/or how much money has been received and/or how much change has been dispensed. Another example involves turning off a machine or turning security on at the machine. However, there is no known ability with such systems to have individualized schedules or control options at each remote device that can be handled via the three digits of a cellular control channel registration message sent over the FOCC.

Such a system could use different MINs to set and reset flags in a programmable logic controller (PLC), for example, through a single input/output port, but there is no known controlling of resistive or inductive loads with MINs mapped in a PLC memory to functions. There is no known instruction set coded to MINs. The problem is one of availability of MINs. If each remotely positioned PLC with a cellular radio were given ten instructions to which it would respond, the cellular carrier would have to provide ten unique and distinct MINs for each such radio. If there were only two radios, only 20 MINs

would be needed. But one hundred radios would need  
1000 MINs. One thousand radios would need ten  
thousand MINs and so on. If there are any  
meaningful number of remote devices to be controlled  
5 (and remote radios), there would not be enough MINs  
or the number of MINs per phone would have to be  
restricted.

Essentially, cellular systems have wider  
coverage geographically than paging systems, but  
10 much more restricted data capacity. Therefore,  
cellular systems are not indicated to be viable  
candidates for flexible remote control of devices.

There is no known existing system that remotely  
controls resistive or inductive electrical loads  
15 according to a centralized schedule through the  
cellular system control channels.

The state of the art has not revealed a way of  
solving the conflicting concerns of cost, capacity,  
and coverage relative to centralized, automated  
20 control of multiple remotely located electrical  
devices. Therefore, there is a need for improvement  
in the art.

**OBJECTS, FEATURES, AND ADVANTAGES OF THE  
INVENTION**

A principal object of the present invention is therefore to provide an apparatus and method of  
5 controlling remotely located devices, which improves over or solves the problems and deficiencies in the art.

Other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention is to provide an apparatus and  
10 method as above described which:

- a) Is wireless.
- b) Does not require specialized lighting control software or the need for distributed software or updates.
- 15 c) Facilitates low cost use of communications networks (e.g. control channel of cellular, Internet).
- d) Does not require a dedicated PC at each remote location.
- 20 e) Does not require a telephone line for each remote location and eliminates expensive installation of phone lines.
- f) Does not require additional phone lines or hard wiring.
- 25 g) Reduces human time and the chance of human error.

- h) Is cost effective.
- i) Reduces staff legwork and time traveling from location to location, before or after events.
- j) Eliminates human resources, time, and cost to physically travel to location(s) and manually operate the remote devices.
- k) Saves energy by operating the remote devices only when they are needed.
- l) Uses existing communications infrastructures (e.g. Internet, telephone networks, cellular networks).
- m) Allows for centralized support services.
- n) Provides for easy training of end users (operators, customers, and interested persons).
- o) Optionally provides a confirmation sent for each new schedule or change.
- p) Is especially flexible for variable schedules at multiple locations.
- q) Saves time.
- r) Saves money.
- s) Can be predominately automated.
- t) Allows for centralization of data yet distribution of individualized control at each remote device.
- u) Reduces need to distribute and track multiple sets of keys.

v) Is vandal resistant.

w) Has significant flexibility.

x) Is retrofittable.

y) Adapts to existing facilities, systems and

5 devices.

z) Is expandable and upgradeable.

aa) Is reliable.

bb) Does not tie up voice channels.

These and other objects, features, and

10 advantages of the present invention will become more  
apparent with reference to the accompanying  
specification and claims.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention involves methods and  
15 apparatus for controlling remote devices or systems.  
The present invention details a way for a user to  
control a plurality of functions at a remote device  
or location by using the existent cellular telephone  
system, a control center, and a remote equipment  
20 controller at each remote device or system.

A control center is established, preferably  
including a computer. An end user of a remote  
device or system can contact the control center,  
including via Internet, e-mail, phone, cell phone,  
25 fax, or even mail, to request performance of

operations by the remote device or system according to a schedule. The control center stores the schedule and assigns or codes the desired request to one or more MINs (mobile identification numbers) of a cellular telephone system. The MIN is a ten digit number which correlates to a cellular phone number. The control center is assigned a plurality of MIN's assigned by a cellular carrier. The MIN's can be designated with area codes that are not accessible by common carriers. Therefore, a standard cellular phone cannot be called using the MIN's assigned to the central location.

The remote equipment controller includes a processor with memory that is pre-programmed with the authorized MINs and functions for the particular remote device. The processor is operatively connected to components that can effectuate a function in the remote device upon appropriate instruction from the processor. When the schedule indicates an action should occur at the remote device, the control center retrieves the MIN for the function chosen by the user, and the MIN is sent to the cellular provider. The cellular provider then calls the MIN of the remote radio located on the remote or system. Once the radio receives the call from the cellular provider, it passes all ten

digits of the MIN to the processor (e.g. a PLC or programmable logic controller). The processor uses a memory lookup table to map the digits (e.g. the last three digits of the MIN) to a specific pre-

5 programmed function. Once this function is located, the processor then performs this function. Thus, the remotely located device can be controlled, even according to multiple instructions, by communication through the very limited data headroom of the

10 control channel of a cellular telephone system.

Central control can utilize what is called a gateway to the cellular network to communicate to the remote cellular radios and to store both the schedules and the coded MINs.

15 As used herein, the terms "central control" or "control central" refer sometimes to "central control" alone and sometimes to "central control" and a dedicated gateway to the cellular network. In other words, the functions attributed to central control could be

20 performed with appropriate components completely at central control, or some functions (e.g. storing of database, use of database, interface with the cellular network) could be delegated to another system, such as a gateway system, as will be further discussed below.



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic overview of a system according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

5        Figure 2 is a diagrammatic overview of how instructions are communicated from a control center ("Central Control") to a plurality of remote devices.

10       Figure 3 is a diagrammatic overview of how persons communicate with Central Control.

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic depiction of voice and control channels relative to a cellular transceiver.

15       Figure 5 is a simplified diagram illustrating area code geographic coverage for the United States according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

20       Figure 6 is a simplified diagram illustrating local central switching office geographic coverage for an area code of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a simplified diagram illustrating mobile identification number geographic relationship for local central switching office coverage of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a diagrammatic depiction of the system of Figure 1 with respect to a remotely located lighting system for a ball field.

Figures 8B and 8C are an additional  
5 diagrammatic depictions of the system of Figure 1.

Figures 9 and 9B is a diagrammatic view of a Remote Equipment Controller of the lighting system of Figure 8.

Figure 10 is a depiction of a lighting schedule  
10 for the ball field of Figure 8.

Figure 11 is a depiction of a data table filled out and placed in an REC or LCC to set forth which contactors and relays control which zones of a lighting system.

15 Figure 12 is a diagrammatic depiction of how control instructions are sent and implemented at the ball field.

Figures 13-15 are screen displays of a graphic user interfaces for entering schedule information at a web  
20 site, either of central control or a gateway. Figures 16-21 are examples of forms used to collect data for inclusion in the database used to control the remote devices and to communicate with customers.

Figure 22 is a diagrammatical illustration of the  
25 data structure of a schedule according to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 23 is a diagrammatic depiction of a communication according to an embodiment of the invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5 To assist in a better understanding of the invention, a detailed description of a preferred embodiment will now then be set forth. It is to be understood that this describes but one specific form of the invention can take, and that others are  
10 possible. Appended drawings will be referred to as description.

A brief overview of the preferred embodiment in the particular environment for this example of the invention will be given. A specific description of  
15 the structure or physical components of the preferred embodiment will follow. Thereafter, a discussion of how the structure functions in its working environment will be set forth. Finally, operational matters and features, as well as  
20 alternative embodiments, will be discussed.

#### OVERVIEW

This embodiment will be discussed in the context of remotely controlling lighting systems at a number of remote locations. However, it is to be  
25 understood that the invention can be applied in a

variety of ways to a variety of remotely located equipment.

The general concept of a system according to the preferred embodiment is illustrated in Figure 1.

5 What will be called Central Control 10 includes a computer having a significant amount of memory and processing power. A plurality of lighting systems 12, located remotely from Central Control 10, each include what will be called a Remote Equipment  
10 Controller (REC) 14 which includes components that can turn lights 16 for each ballfield 18 on or off. REC 14 further includes a cellular phone or radio 20.

As shown in Figures 1 and 8C, Central Control  
15 10 is in communication with a dedicated gateway system 22 (DGW), which in turn is in communication with the Intersystem Signaled Network (ISN IS-41) 24 that interlinks all the cellular phone systems in the U.S.

20 Central Control 10 and/or gateway system 22 includes a database of on-off schedules 11 for each lighting system 12. At the appropriate times, software and equipment at Central Control 10 (or gateway 22) instigates a call to the appropriate  
25 radio 20. As will be discussed in more detail below, through this procedure REC 14 can be

instructed to turn the corresponding lighting  
systems 12 on or off, according to schedule. Thus,  
control of all the remotely located lighting systems  
can be accomplished from a central location, in a  
5 wireless manner to wherever cellular communications  
can reach (which is almost the entire U.S.), and in  
an automated, labor-saving, cost-effective fashion.

As further illustrated in Figure 1, the system  
could also allow input from what will be called  
10 customers 26 and interested persons 28. Examples of  
customers are municipal park and recreation  
departments, school districts, and athletic  
associations. Interested persons can be athletes,  
parents, or fans of athletic teams using ball fields  
15 18, and thus interested in game times and locations.

Customers/interested persons 26/28, through  
conventional means such as personal computers, can  
access Central Control 10 through Internet 30.  
Schedules and other information regarding the games  
20 or use of ballfields 18 would be available to  
authorized persons. Additionally, authorized  
persons could communicate changes to schedules 18,  
post messages, or submit other information to  
Central Control 10, so that schedules 18 or other  
25 important information could be kept current.

By referring briefly to Figure 8, a personal computer 32, phone 34 or fax 36 could be used by customers 26 to transfer information to Central Control 10 which then instructs the REC's 14  
5 accordingly over the cellular network.

The personal computer, phone or fax (or other communication method) transfers to Central Control 10 information concerning functions the customer wishes to perform at the remote lighting system 12.  
10 Central Control 10 matches the request of the customer with a cell phone 20 MIN and then sends it to the REC 14. The REC 14 receives the MIN; interprets this as a function and controls the lights 16 of lighting system 12 in the desired way.

15 Such a system can be used for a variety of different purposes. Examples are lights at baseball fields, parks, golf courses, swimming pools, parks and bike trails. Other examples are possible.

### **APPARATUS**

#### **20 Schedules**

As explained above, customers 26 can utilize input devices such as PC's 32 (e.g. e-mail), telephones 34 or facsimile machines 36 to send in or make changes to schedules 11. These are all

conventional components widely available to the public.

For example, Figures 16-21 illustrate examples of forms that could be given to customers or  
5 interested persons. The filled-out forms would be returned to Central Control 10.

The input from customers 26 could be processed by employees at Central Control 10, and then entered into a database of schedules 11.

10 For example, Figure 16 asks the customer for identification information, security information (section 1), how to contact them either by email or fax (section 2), non-recurring lighting ON or OFF for each lighting zone (section 3), and recurring  
15 lighting ON and OFF functions for each zone, including date (section 4). The customer fills this in and faxes, emails, mails, or otherwise gets this to Central Control 10.

Figure 17 provides a form so that information  
20 about how the relays are wired can be compiled for entry into the database.

Figure 18 provides a form so that information regarding customers can be compiled and entered into the database to keep track of end users of the  
25 lights and make monthly reports to the customers regarding light usage, etc.

Figure 19 describes the facility itself as well as the time zone and whether daylight savings time applies. The database needs this because it is keyed to Greenwich Mean Time.

5        Figure 20 compiles information about the facility owner or authorized agent(s) so that only authorized individuals can send scheduling information to Control Central. It also allows verification of a schedule or schedule change by  
10    Control Central.

Figure 21 is an additional form to compile information about the user of the lights or the facility being lighted.

Figures 13-15 are examples of graphic user  
15    interfaces or screen displays for accessing and entering scheduling and other information into the database. Figure 13 shows that access preferably is password protected. Figure 14 shows that a variety of options could exist relative to use of the  
20    database, including entry of or changing of schedules (see button labeled "Output Control").

Figure 15 shows a web site screen after selecting "Output Control" on Figure 14. Central Control would enter a MIN of a radio 20 in "Unit  
25    Number". If immediate override (see "Immediate Control") of an existing schedule is required (e.g.



if a customer has just called Central Control and asked to turn on lights currently to off according to the existing schedule), Central Control could override the existing schedule right then for any of  
5 the relays/contactors 1-8 for that lighting system.

The "Schedule" section of Figure 15 allows Central Control to enter the schedule for each relay/contactactor (Op 1 to OP 8) for that lighting system, including which days of the week and which  
10 months of the year. The "once" column is for single, non-recurring events (from section 3 of Figure 16). Otherwise, the schedule will recur (from section 4 of Figure 16). Changes can also be made to the schedule.

## 15           **Internet**

Through standard e-mail, customers can send schedule requests to Central Control 10 over the Internet, and optionally get confirmations back the same way. An advantage of use of Internet 30 is  
20 increasing availability to the public, including at their homes, and its availability almost anywhere and anytime, but with no or limited communications cost.

Internet 30 could also be used to communicate  
25 between Central Control 10 and gateway 22. The

gateway provider could set up and maintain a web site with appropriate user interface and security for these purposes. There is no need for special distributed software to customers 26 or interested  
5 persons 28, or the need for dedicated computers at ballfields 18. See Figures 13-15.

### Central Control

Central Control 10 (in this example via gateway 22) performs a variety of functions. The functions  
10 can be as diverse and detailed as desired. For example, control central sends messages over cellular network 24 to the REC's 14. It also can send confirmations that scheduling information has been entered, that a scheduling function has been  
15 performed, that a schedule change has been made, etc. to customers 26 via e-mail or fax.

Employees at Central Control 10 review and properly format schedules and deal with scheduling conflicts or other problems. Control central  
20 includes a computer (e.g. Dell Computer Corporation PowerEdge Server) with firmware and appropriate software secure from users. A database is maintained to store the scheduling information.

### Communications

To better understand the system of the preferred embodiment, the communications between the components of the system must be understood.

5 Figures 2-7 illustrate the basic communications concepts.

The system relies on the ability to reach a variety of remote locations in a wireless manner by relying on the cellular phone network. Figure 2  
10 illustrates this in more detail. Control central 10 is located in State C, City 1. In this example, there are seven lighting systems (numbered 12-1, 12-2, 12-3, 12-4, 12-5, 12-6, and 12-7) to be remotely controlled by control central 10. Lighting systems  
15 12-1, 12-2, 12-3 are located in State A, City 1. Lighting systems 12-4 and 12-5 are located in the same State A, but in City 2. Lighting systems 12-6 and 12-7 are located in a different State C, and City 1 in State C.

20 City 1 of State A has a cellular carrier C1 that covers City 1 of State A with cells C1-1, C1-2, C1-3, and C1-4. Cellular communications to those cells is controlled by Mobile Telephone Switching Office 40-C1. Carrier C2 covers City 2 of State A  
25 with cells C2-1 to C2-7, which are controlled by MTSO 40-C2. Carrier C3 covers City 3 of State B

with cells C3-1 to C3-3, which are controlled by  
MTSO 40-C3.

**Intersystem signaling network (IS-41) -  
connects all Internet carriers**

5

Central Control 10 is located in still a third  
State, namely State C, in City 4. As is well-known  
in the art, Central Control 10 (via gateway 22) can  
communicate with any of the cells of cellular  
10 systems C1, C2, or C3 by using conventional land-  
line telephone gear and dialing up a cellular phone  
in any of those geographic areas. A high speed  
dedicated connection (SS7) between Central Control  
10/gateway 22 and the IS-41 signaling network 24 can  
15 be made. A backup dial-up modem connection can be  
available. Cellular systems C1, C2, and C3 are  
hooked up by high speed dedicated connections to the  
intersystem signaling network (IS-41) 24 that  
connects all cellular carriers. Thus, even though  
20 Central Control 10 or gateway 22 is in one City in a  
first State and a lighting system 12 for a ballfield  
18 in another City in another State, communication  
can be made if the ballfield City is covered by a  
cellular system.

**Cellular carriers**

As is further well-known in the art, each cell of each cellular system has a base station 42 which includes a transceiver 44 and an antenna 46 (see  
5 Figure 4). The MTSO 40 associated with each collection of cells communicates with any of the base stations 42 in its system (via land-line or wireless). The base stations then communicate in a wireless fashion to the cell phones 20.

10 Mobile Telephone Switching Office (MTSO), sometimes referred to as an MSC, is established by each cellular carrier in each city or for each collection of cells. It is like a CTO (central telephone office) of conventional land-line phone  
15 systems in that it coordinates calls to and from phones in the area which it covers. The MTSO also connects its cells to the conventional land line telephone system and controls the base station in each of its cells.

20 This wireless ability, along with the existing infrastructure illustrated in Figure 2, allows Central Control 10 (via gateway 22) to communicate with remotely located REC's 14 without the huge capital investment of creating a new infrastructure,  
25 or laying dedicated land-lines to each REC.

### Conventional phone system

The conventional land-line telephone system 22 utilizes central telephone switching offices or CTO's distributed around the country, one for each  
5 area code. Communications can go into the conventional telephone system at various times.

This is illustrated in Figure 3. If a customer 26 wishes to communicate with Central Control 10, one way is via a land line call (either voice or  
10 fax). Other ways are via a cell call (which could in part involve land line telephone), or via e-mail (again usually by Internet 30). It is even possible for a customer to make a personal visit to Central Control 10 to seek or convey information.

### 15 Cellular phone or radio

Cell phones 20, also referred to as radios 20, are conventional cellular radios. An example is an Ericsson TXR module AM10 AMPS cellular radio (cellular receiver). Such components are relatively  
20 small (roughly 2" W by 4" L by 1/2" D), are durable (mostly solid-state), and relatively inexpensive.

The mechanism to send a part of the MIN from radio 20 to PLC 50 is as follows. An AT modem command (industry standard) emulates modem  
25 communication protocol and allows radio 20 to talk

to PLC 50 through a serial data port. The communication is full handshake, full duplex and approximately 2400 baud.

#### AMPS Communication Protocol

5 As previously discussed, a significant aspect of AMPS cellular communication is the precise way in which cellular calls are routed. It is important to an understanding of the present invention, to understand this.

10 Figure 4 illustrates one cellular radio 20 in cell C1-1 of cellular system C1. Base station 42 of cell C1-1 services radio 20 and is connected to MTSO 40-C1 of system C1, which in turn is connected to the IS-41 intersystem network 24.

15 MTSO 24, through base station 42, communicates with radio 20 as follows. Forward control channel FOCC and reverse control channel RECC allow the base station 42 and the radio 20 respectively to communicate call initiation information and perform  
20 other functions. Forward voice channel FOVC and reverse voice channel REVC carry the voice messages (audio) to and from radios 20.

Conventionally, use of the FOCC and RECC are for very short times and traffic over these channels  
25 is not as high as the voice channels, where the real

voice communication occurs. Conventionally, FOCC and RECC are primarily used to register radio 20 to enable it to receive or make a call.

As described earlier, because FOCC and RECC are  
5 primarily used in this manner, and because of the  
AMPS protocols, the amount of data communicated over  
these control channels is limited. Specifically,  
information on the FOCC when initiating a remote  
call to radio 20 is limited to essentially the MIN,  
10 that is, ten digits in the abc-efg-wxyz format  
described above. To reach radio 20, the first six  
digits can not be altered. The first three (abc)  
are the area code for the call, directing the call  
to the general geographic area of the home cellular  
15 system for the cellular radio 20. The next three  
(efg) are the local CTO number, a further  
geographical narrowing. The final four digits of  
the MIN (wxyz) are an identification number for the  
specific radio 20 so that the call knows which radio  
20 it is supposed to be directed to.

If the MIN sent out by the caller matches with  
the MIN of the called radio 20, the cellular system  
assigns the frequencies for the voice channels FOVC  
and REVC, the duplex communication can begin. Prior  
25 to that assignment of a voice channel, all of the



signaling is accomplished solely over the IS-41's  
FOCC and RECC.

Thus, in the instance of Figure 4, if cellular  
radio 20 has the MIN of 080-377-4000, a call from  
5 Central Control 10 (via gateway 22) would involve  
dialing that number. The MIN would be carried over  
IS-41 (reference numeral 24). As is well-known in  
the art so that it will not be described in detail  
here, the IS-41 network 24 is able to discern the  
10 "home" cellular system for that MIN, but also can  
discern where the radio 20 matching the MIN is  
currently at geographically (because radio 20  
periodically sends out its MIN and lets the  
intracellular network know where its at).

15 Thus, the registration process that is used by  
the cellular telephone system to prepare for a call  
to a cellular phone is used here. What is sometimes  
actually referred to as a "page" is made through the  
cellular network to the cellular phone being called.  
20 The cell phone must tell the cellular system that it  
is on and ready. The cellular network notifies the  
entire USA of this (or more accurately, notifies all  
geographic areas covered by the IS-41 intersystem  
network). The cell phone scans for the strongest  
25 FOCC to get to nearest base station and sends its  
MID/ESN/and home system SID (all goes to the

relevant MTSO). The cell phone is registered with local cellular system if everything checks out.

If the home cellular system validates the MIN, the call is registered and is ready to commence. In this example, the radio having the MIN of 080-377-4000 would receive its MIN over the FOCC. This registration process, taking only hundreds of milliseconds, is essentially a "page" which lets the nationwide intra cellular network 26 know that remote phone 20 has come on-line. It is important to note that over the FOCC, only the ten digit MIN is sent to radio 20. In the forward direction (over FOCC from base 42 to radio 20), only three digits of the MIN are available to carry information.

Radio 20 sends the ten digit MIN as well as a 32 bit Electronic Security Number or ESN over the RECC, and therefore only from radio 20 back to base station 42. Thus, the 32 bits are not available in the forward direction for instructions to REC 14. Other information may be sent over the forward or reverse control channels (e.g. home system ID), but such does not change the basic fact that the only "data" so to speak that might be carried over the FOCC (base 42 to radio 20) in the MIN is the last three digits of the MIN. For reasons dictated by the AMPS protocol, only the last three digits are

potentially utilizable for carrying data or instructions.

Therefore, as discussed above, one would be deterred from looking to the AMPS limitation of three possible digits in the FOCC, if one were looking for a way to send digital instructions. However, it is in this very environment that the preferred embodiment functions.

As shown in Figure 4, radio 20 according to the preferred embodiment is given anywhere from one to a substantial plurality of MIN's to which it will respond. Taking again the example of a MIN in the form of 080-377-4000, Figure 5 shows how the USA for example, is divided up into a plurality of area codes 080 through 087. A call from Central Control 10 to 080-377-4000 would route the call to the 080 area code, here illustrated to be in the Northwest part of the United States.

Figure 6 illustrates that the geographic extent of area code 080 is sub-divided into a plurality of regions 370 to 377, each serviced by a CTO 38. Each region is identified by the three digit number and therefore in this example the call is routed to CTO identified by "377".

Figure 7 illustrates that CTO 377 would provide the MIN to the appropriate MTSO 40, which would

track down the cell (here C1-1) receiving the  
strongest signal or vise versa relative to the radio  
with the MIN 080-377-4000, and sends the MIN over  
the FOCC at base station 42 in cell C1-1, to that  
5 radio 20. Thus, radio 20 , responding to this  
called number or MIN, is found in msec over the  
cellular network control channels.

### Gateway

In one embodiment of the invention, a third  
10 party administrator (in cooperation with input from  
Central Control 10) could be used to control the  
calling to cellular radios 20. The third party  
could also obtain proprietary area codes, CTO  
numbers, and phone IDs unavailable to other persons  
15 or companies. This would ensure that no accidental  
or intentional but unauthorized caller could send  
calls in the system of the invention.

The third party would effectively function like  
an MTSO, but have a proprietary control office for  
20 the cell phones in the system. By appropriate  
controls and software, the third party could  
restrict any outgoing calls in case an MIN and/or  
MIN/ESN is poached.

Furthermore, the third party could send  
25 cancellation messages after a certain time for each

paging to free up space and capacity over the cellular control channels.

Information could be sent to the third party from the Internet, any intranet, or land-line. This  
5 third party, called a "gateway" between Central Control and the regular cellular system, would essentially act as a "home" cellular system or MTSO for all cellular phones associated with the preferred embodiment. Therefore, all those cell  
10 phones would essentially be roaming the cellular intersystem network. The gateway would place a "call" to a roamer cell phone via its special MTSO programmed to accept the special MIN's.

An example of such a third party gateway is  
15 Cellemetry of Atlanta, Georgia. In their system, the MTSO can be programmed with up to ten MIN's per cellular radio. Higher numbers of MIN's per phone are possible.

Figures 13-15 show how the gateway system could  
20 be accessed by Central Control, and how scheduling and other relevant information can be provided from Central Control 10 to gateway 22 via a private , secure location in the gateway website.

**Remote Equipment Controller or REC**

In this embodiment, communications hardware, software, and networks have been described which allow Central Control to use the quick, low cost control channels of the AMPS cellular telephone protocol to contact a plurality of remote cell phones using existing infrastructure. Use of this communication to affect a function at a remote lighting system 12 involves utilization of a remote equipment controller or REC 14, which will now be described in more detail.

By referring to Figures 8 and 9, the REC 14 can be seen in one form. For lighting systems, particularly outdoor systems, REC 14 can be contained in a lighting contractor cabinet or an LCC 48 (e.g. NEMA 4X enclosure-fiberglass (indoor) or aluminum (outdoor), 16" (H) x 14" (W) x 6.25" (D)), fully assembled and factory tested. The LCC could be separate.

Major components of REC 14, in addition to cellular radio 20, include controller 50 (e.g. a PLC), relay board 52 and power supply 56. The contactors and fuses/breakers could be in the LCC. Relevant characteristics of these components are set forth below.

Controller 50 can be a 87C52 from Intel Corporation. It includes non-volatile memory into which a database is pre-programmed. Authorized MIN's for radio 20 are mapped to instructions in the database. The instructions are then carried out by PLC 50 by sending electrical instructions to other component(s) of REC 14. When a call is made to REC 14 using a MIN to which REC 14 responds, controller 50 (via appropriate connection to radio 20) is given the authorized MIN and thus can map the MIN to its stored instruction set for that REC 14. Non-volatile memory retains information even in power outages or brown-outs.

Multiple (e.g. eight) output relays are used on relay board 52 to control electrical loads such as conventional lighting contactors .

Multiple lighting contactors 54 (e.g. six Siemens Sirius 3R series individual Form C contacts, hermetically sealed maximum 7.5 amp at 120 VAC)) are controlled by the relays of board 52. By this method, the very high voltage/current needed by the high-powered lights (e.g. 1500 Watt Metal Halide lamps), can be turned off or on by much lower voltages/currents.

Optionally, multiple (e.g. eight) three-position selector switches (Off-On-Auto or OOA,

Make-Before-Break or MBB) could be included in REC

14 or LCC or a separate enclosure for convenient access. They could be door mounted, with one red pilot light for each OOA switch. The function of  
5 these switches will be discussed below.

Electrical power could be delivered through a duplex receptacle - 120 VAC (for field service tools). Primary and secondary fusing as well as terminal blocks could be used for this incoming  
10 power, load wiring and REC control. The input power supply (e.g. 115 VAC (+/- 10%)) can have replaceable fuse and transient protection. All internal devices are widely available. Some could be DIN rail mounted for easy replacement. Approvals and  
15 standards include UL 916—energy management system for the REC, and FCC part 15 for a Class A device.

REC 14 includes separate line voltage Off-On-Auto switches (OOA) for each control circuit. New installations are pre-engineered and factory  
20 assembled which includes all necessary contactors, OOA switches and control transformer, fuse blocks , and terminal strips. REC 14 allows manual control of high voltage 3 phase sports lighting or automatic control from the REC.



REC 14 could include a short mast, noise free, high impact durable antenna (when unit is mounted outside) or a standard whip antenna for inside.

Optionally an internal heater with regulating thermostat could be factory installed (recommended where outside temperature drops below 15 degrees F.).

REC 14 can be pre-wired, fully tested wiring harness between relays and lighting contactors.

10 Plug-in screw terminals accommodate up to No. 14 AWG wire . It can have snap-in electronic circuit boards with built in test buttons to verify operation ability to test the unit with a direct page or by a portable computer connected through a

15 serial communication port.

#### **OPERATION**

The present system first requires input from the customer as to an on/off schedule for the customer's lights. As discussed previously, this

20 information can come into Central Control 10 in a number of different ways and from almost anywhere. Figure 10 illustrates a schedule for the hypothetical Twin Peaks Park District of State A, City 1. Five different lighting zones are to be

25 controlled, one being simply security lights. ON

and OFF times are formatted by the customer or  
Central Control 10 in a fashion that can be entered  
into the Central Control database.

Figure 11 illustrates some of the additional  
5 information that would be pre-programmed into that  
database. Details about the relays and contactors  
in the REC 14 for the lights in each lighting zone  
are pre-known and in the database. A default  
schedule could optionally be entered.

10 Central Control's computer therefore knows when  
to turn each lighting zone on and off. The customer  
sets the schedule.

Alternatively, the authorized customer can  
enter or change on/off times. A template such as  
15 Figure 10 or 11 could be used to enter a new ON/Off  
schedule or to review or modify a current schedule.

As shown in Figure 8, the user of the system  
can send information regarding instructions at a  
remote lighting facility via the Internet, e-mail, a  
20 cellular telephone call, or even a standard call.  
When this information is received at the central  
location, the user's request will be identified and  
matched to instructions contained in the PLC at the  
remote equipment controller. The instructions  
25 contained in the remote equipment controller can be

standard instructions or can be personalized through each user.

The central location will have a plurality of mobile identification numbers designated from a cellular carrier. This cellular carrier will have access to area codes outside of the common carrier accessibility. Therefore, a standard cellular or standard telephone could not be called using the system. Figure 3 details an exemplary hypothetical list of possible MIN numbers designated to the central location for a specific user.

The cellular telephone system has been split up into an "A" channel and a "B" channels. All receivers can listen to only one channel, A or B, at any given time. Also, a radio can respond to "even" or "odd" MINs but not both. Therefore, looking at Figure 3 the representation of 080-377-4000 ("even" MIN) would represent the same function as 080-377-4001 ("odd" MIN). They are mapped to the same function.

By referring to Figure 12, most MIN's are assigned from a cellular provider a plurality of mobile identification numbers to achieve a plurality of functions. The cellular provider will have access to area codes not accessible to common carriers. These assigned mobile identification

numbers can range from a plurality of last four digits in an area code to a plurality of office codes and available last four digits inside those codes.

5           PLC 50 can be pre-programmed with desired functions. PLC 50 contains the memory map where the functions are stored. Each memory location inside the memory map directly maps to a respective MIN number. By referring to Figure 12, a remote  
10   equipment controller (REC 14) or wireless remote lighting controller receives the MIN from the cellular provider. REC 14 is normally collocated with the lighting system.

Referring to Figure 8, Control Central receives  
15   information via the Internet or telephone from the customer location. This information is then translated to a respective function or MIN number and transferred to the cellular provider.

Central Control 10 places a call which goes to  
20   that carrier's computer (MTSO). It checks where the remote radio 20 is (if in its "HOME" area, the carrier's computer knows because of registration process). If radio 20 is in a "VISITING" area, the intracellular network finds and then knows where it  
25   is at. The carrier sends a MIN to the location of a

nearby antenna, which broadcasts the MIN and rings  
radio 20.

Once the mobile identification number for the  
specific function chosen by the user has been  
5 obtained, the number is then sent to the cellular  
provider that has assigned the MIN's to the central  
location office. Referring to Figure 8, the  
cellular provider then sends this information to  
either a satellite (or an antenna, through broadcast  
10 or hardwire), inside of the cell where the remote  
equipment controller is located. The MIN is then  
sent to the phone via the control channel of  
standard cellular telephone usage.

A control channel only carries data. By using  
15 the control channel there is no interference with  
the voice channel.

Radio 20 essentially listens for its number and  
acts according to logic at REC 14. REC 14 receives  
and stores messages. It looks at the MIN received  
20 at radio 20, in the form "abc-def-wxyz", where abc =  
area code (proprietary to gateway so no one else can  
interface with the functioning of these  
communications), def = CTO number, wxyz = w000 to  
w999; giving possibly up to 1000 instructions. It  
25 automatically turns the lights on or off per user

schedule. It is thus remotely controlled by a cellular signal.

Referring to Figure 9, when the remote equipment controller receives the MIN via cellular radio 20, the remote equipment controller will decode the last three digits of the MIN. The PLC will then take these three digits and memory map them to a location containing the function desired to be performed at the remote lighting system. When that function has been found, the PLC then sends confirmation back to Central Control and the function is performed.

Looking at Figures 12 and 13, there is a possibility for a plurality of functions. In the example of Figure 3 there could be hundreds of functions. There may be more in the future.

Thus, by this method the schedule for each lighting system is automatically accomplished by Central Control sending out pages through the control channels of the cellular phone network to appropriate REC's at appropriate times.

The primary MIN "wakes up" radio 20, or in other words, lets radio 20 know that an instruction will follow shortly (within a pre-selected time—e.g. 60 seconds). The gateway codes a plurality of what will be called "secondary MINs" to a plurality of functions to be

carried out by REC 14, and stores those secondary MINs in the gateway database. The gateway continuously scans (e.g. every minute) the schedules in the database.

Whenever the schedule for a particular zone of lights indicates that an action time approaches for that zone of lights, the gateway encodes a MIN based on the current state of the relays for the particular REC involved and then fires off that secondary MIN into the IS-41 signaling network [with appropriate routing so that it will be transported to the appropriate radio 20.

Radio 20 receives the secondary MIN, and passes all digits of the MIN to PLC 50. The pre-programmed map in PLC 50 decodes the last three digits xyz and generates the appropriate control signal to the appropriate relay(s) to either turn that zone of lights ON or OFF, depending on the schedule.

In practice, each relay is activated or deactivated by relatively low voltage but controls whether the high voltage needed by a bank of sports lights, for example, is supplied to the lights to turn them ON and operate them. Each individual relay or group of relays is controlled by one or more MINs; one set of MINs to turn the relay(s) ON; one set to turn the relay(s) OFF. Therefore, if the schedule requires that substantial sized area to be lit (i.e. which requires several banks or zones of lights to turn on), more than one relay must

be controlled at the scheduled time. Multiple MINs can not be sent to a single radio 20 in parallel; the gateway must send a "primary" MIN first, to "wake up" or "alert" radio 20 and then send a "secondary" MIN to perform a control function. The gateway waits for a predetermined time (e.g. approx. 60 seconds), and then sends another "wake up" primary MIN followed by a secondary MIN to perform other control or scheduling function, and so on until all necessary scheduling functions have been specified. The gateway must therefore initiate the whole procedure far enough ahead of the scheduled time for use of the field so that all lights are on at that time.

The gateway knows which radio 20 was just woken and knows which instruction it needs to send to that radio 20. Therefore, the secondary MINs do not have to be unique for each radio 20. This allows for many less proprietary MINs to be obtained (MIN reuse). It can also allow for a standard MIN set to be created regardless of what radio 20 is involved. The gateway locks any other message from going to a waken up radio 20 until either a secondary MIN is received and a confirmation is sent back or a set period of time expires (the radio "times out").

The back end software at the gateway essentially operates according to the following flow chart:

Scan database on request or every set amount of time.  
Look for schedules whose time is up for transmission.



Encode secondary MIN based on an action to be performed for each REC related to each schedule up for transmission.

Send Primary MIN to relevant radio to wake it up.

- 5 Follow Primary MIN with the encoded secondary MIN to the radios.

The gateway can use a UNIX or Windows NT based computer. The Webserver (e.g. Microsoft Internet Information Server or Apache) can run on Windows NT or  
10 Unix. The website of the gateway can be programmed in a combination of Java, HTML, Microsoft SQL, Delphi, and Perl languages. The database can be programmed in Microsoft SQL, Oracle, or Progress.

It is possible for feedback to be generated by the  
15 REC and sent back to the gateway. As discussed above, the reverse control channels have the advantage of carrying the 32 bit ESN as well as the MIN. By appropriate programming of radio 20 and PLC 50, the ESN can be masked and replaced with data. In the present  
20 embodiment, 8 bits are used to tell the gateway such things as (a) instruction received and executed or (b) instruction received but not understood. If radio 20 wakes up with the primary MIN but does not receive a secondary MIN within a set period of time, PLC 50 can  
25 execute a "time out" function on its own, and could

indicate this over the 8 bit message masked over a part  
of the ESN.

In any of the above cases, the gateway would receive  
and decipher the 32-bit return message from the REC. The  
5 gateway could then send a communication in any of a  
variety of forms to Central Control so that Central  
Control knows what occurred. Central Control in turn  
could communicate in any of a variety of ways with its  
customers.

10 Because of the 32 bits in the ESN, a return  
message to the gateway could include other  
information. Examples are: what the signal  
strength was of the received instruction, how many  
times radio 20 had to be paged before it sent a  
15 confirm back to the gateway, the identity of the  
switch that the antenna connected to, and status  
codes, such as whether the function was completed or  
not.

#### ***OPTIONS, ALTERNATIVES, FEATURES***

20 The included preferred embodiment is given by  
way of example only, and not by way of limitation to  
the invention, which is solely described by the  
claims herein. Variations obvious to one skilled in  
the art will be included with the invention defined  
25 by the claims.

One option of the system is to confirm the carrying out of the schedules to the customer. As shown in Figure 3, a customer can be notified via email or fax that the schedule has been entered into  
5 Central Control and/or carried out at the customer's lighting systems.

Some other options are as follows. There may be times where the lights need to be turned on or off outside the established schedule in the database at  
10 Central Control. For example, there may be a need to turn lights ON early (for a pre-game test or unscheduled event) or keep lights ON longer (if a game is running later than planned) or turn lights OFF early (game canceled or cut short, bad weather).

15 One override method one is a telephone override. It works in this manner: customer will call a toll-free number and speak with a Control Central staff person. That person will validate the customer's PIN against the central database and  
20 enter the requested changes on the customer's behalf. In the case of trying to extend the ON time, users need to call at least 15 minutes before scheduled OFF time to ensure that the new messages will be received by the REC 14 before the automatic  
25 OFF time. Another override method two involves the use of the Off/On/Auto (OOA) switches previously

described. Each REC will have individual OOA switches for each control zone. The REC will operate automatically when the OOA is in the AUTO position. In the ON position the lights will remain  
5 ON until the OOA switch is changed to OFF or back to AUTO.

Another option is to assign more than one MIN to a cell radio 20. One line (the first MIN) is rung, then the calling phone hangs up. The PLC  
10 could go into wait loop where stop and listen (the PLC is alerted). If a call is received on any of other nine lines (e.g. nine) within a period of seconds (e.g. 30) then PLC 50 knows to do function 1; if line 2, function 2; ...; if line 9, ....., function  
15 8.

During a power failure, relays go to their default state (i.e. NO or NC). After normal power returns, the REC unit will auto-restart and resume normal operation. PLC 50 remembers the last state  
20 and schedule of the relays prior to power loss and restores them to the appropriate state upon resumption of power.

The simplest use of the system according to the preferred embodiment, is to simply initiate the  
25 cellular page to remote radio 20. The PLC associated with that radio 20 reads the MIN that is

attempted to be paged by Central Control 10, and in particular, reads the last three digits of the MIN. Once the page is decoded, the PLC simply turns the lights on or off.

5       As is known in the art, if there is a need to send data back to Central Control from the REC, one might be able to use the 32 bit ESN in reverse control channel communications from radio to control central. This would allow up to 32 bits of  
10 information to be sent back for remote monitoring and status information. The ESN could be "masked out" by the gateway company. It can also be reprogrammed on the fly in the field.

Some examples of remote monitoring over the  
15 reverse control channel, as opposed to remote control over the forward control channel are as follows:

- a) Measurement
- b) Poll information
- 20 c) Monitor, use thresholds, if exceeded, let us know
- d) Alarm monitoring
- e) Security alarms
- f) On-demand status
- 25 g) Location/GPS
- h) Track mobile equipment

- i) Motion detectors or sensors
  - j) Can override PLC if game too long.
  - k) Can function as security device/alarm if  
notices activity during "off" hours
- 5        l) Rain sensors
- m) Photo detectors
  - n) Measure lamp life
  - o) Detects malfunction or light is out
  - p) Data gather lamp life, field usage, energy
- 10      usage

Areas and facilities that can use this device are:

- a) Park districts
- b)     Schools
- 15      c)     Ballfields
- d)     Sports complexes
- e)     Golf course
- f)     Ski resorts
- g)     Racetracks
- 20      h)     Sportslighting
- i)     Security
- j)     Parking lots
- k)     Door locks

25        One alternative embodiment to this, is that  
there would be a plurality of books of functions

inside the PLC. The first call to the remote equipment controller would identify which book the functions are located in and the next call would identify what function to use inside that book.

5           And yet another embodiment splits the clock inside the PLC into segments. Each segment would have up to 1,000 (000-999) functions. See Figure 13. By using this method the central location can greatly expand the amount of functions used in a  
10   limited MIN number range. Therefore, each MIN number would represent a different function depending on what time it was. Thus if a central location only had 500 MIN numbers, by splitting the clock into five segments the central location would  
15   have up to 2,500 functions available. In order to achieve this operation the clock(s) at the central location and the clock at the remote equipment controller would have to be synchronized to avoid error. Therefore, a command coming from the central  
20   location would have to synchronize the clocks at a time interval to stop the clocks from drifting.

Confirmation options. Multiple confirmations could be sent to customers, e.g.:

          a) Schedule request received (e.g. via e-mail to  
25   end user from control central)

- b) Action transmitted to gateway company (e.g. e-mail to end user)
- c) Action was executed at REC.

5           The invention has been described in some detail as to the requirements for each aspect of the invention. Specific examples are now shown of a data representation of the time schedule and a command instruction set that could be used. The  
10 creation of a data representation of a time schedule and a command instruction can vary as is well known in the art and the data representations shown are by way of example and are in no way limiting.

#### Time Schedule

15           Figure 22 shows how the customer's schedule can be represented by a data structure or data format that reduces the amount of memory needed and the amount of data that needs to be communicated in a complete one week long time schedule. One method of  
20 doing so involves grouping the relays into groups. For example, a group size of 8 relays can be selected. A number of groups can be determined, such as 10 groups. For each group, a number of events can be assigned for a given time period  
25 during which the events are to occur. Turning on the lights and turning off the lights are examples



of events. In one embodiment, four events can occur in a day. This would, for example, permit one or more groups of relays to turn on and then off and then on and then off in a single day. To decrease  
5 the amount of storage required for a time slot while still permitting small enough time divisions such that lights can be efficiently controlled, 96 time slots per day can be used. This permits 15 minute wide time slots each day.

10 When only two types of events are used (i.e. ON and OFF), these events can be represented by a single bit. When 96 time slots are used these time slots can be represented with 7 bits. Because 7 bits permits 128 different discrete values there  
15 will be additional space. One use of this additional space is to add time slots for sunrise and sunset.

The table below also summarizes the space allocation required for a one week long schedule.

	<i>Space required</i>
Event	8 bits (1 byte) 7 bits for time slot 1 bit for ON/OFF
Day	4 bytes 4 events of 1 byte

Group (1-8 relays per group) 28 bytes  
7 days of 4 bytes  
Schedule 280 bytes  
10 groups of 28 bytes

### Command set

Three digits are available for commands. Each digit can be represented in a binary coded decimal (BCD) notation. . A cellular radio can only hear transmissions that have "even" numbers or "odd" numbers. One bit of this last digit (least significant bit) indicates if the number is even (bit=0) or odd (bit=1). Therefore, this bit can not be used for command or data information, reducing the number of possible commands by two. For example, if a command to turn all groups on is given, this command could be communicated to either of two cellular radios in any given area.

Therefore two 3-digit commands, differing by the least significant bit of the least significant digit are needed to ensure that the same command will be issued regardless of which type of radio happens to be as the recipient of that call. For example, in one embodiment the three digit command of 500 could be the command to turn off all lights for one cellular radio and then, correspondingly, the command 501 (500 and 501 differ by the least

significant bit) would be needed to have the same effect to provide the same operation for a different radio.

The following table summarizes the 3 digit commands that are available in the forward channel direction. Note that some commands require more than a single page in order to implement. Where multiple pages are necessary, the number is specified. In addition, there is a corresponding registration response from the REC. This registration response can be one or more registration messages. Each registration message can be a verification of the information sent in the forward channel direction, or else each registration message can contain data. There may be multiple verification messages or multiple data messages or both.

3-Digit Command No. (Decimal) Even, Odd	Command Name	No. of Forward Channel Pages	Registration Response No. + Type
0X0, 0X1	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 1	1	1 - Verification
0X2, 0X3	Turn Group X	1	1 - Verification

	Off at Time in Bin 2		
0X4, 0X5	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 3	1	1 - Verification
0X6, 0X7	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 4	1	1 - Verification
0X8, 0X9	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 5	1	1 - Verification
1X0, 1X1	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 6	1	1 - Verification
1X2, 1X3	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 7	1	1 - Verification
1X4, 1X5	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 8	1	1 - Verification
1X6, 1X7	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 9	1	1 - Verification
1X8, 1X9	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 10	1	1 - Verification
2X0, 2X1	Turn Group X Off at Time in	1	1 - Verification

	Bin 11		
2X2, 2X3	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 12	1	1 - Verification
2X4, 2X5	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 13	1	1 - Verification
2X6, 2X7	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 14	1	1 - Verification
2X8, 2X9	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 15	1	1 - Verification
3X0, 3X1	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 16	1	1 - Verification
3X2, 3X3	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 17	1	1 - Verification
3X4, 3X5	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 18	1	1 - Verification
3X6, 3X7	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 19	1	1 - Verification
3X8, 3X9	Turn Group X Off at Time in Bin 20	1	1 - Verification

4X0, 4X1	Clear Schedules Group X	1	1 - Verification
4X2, 4X3	Turn Group X ON Now	1	1 - Verification
4X4, 4X5	Turn Group X Off Now	1	1 - Verification
500, 501	Turn All Groups ON	1	1 - Verification
502, 503	Turn All Groups OFF	1	1 - Verification
504, 505	Set Day of Month for Reporting	2	1 - Verification
508, 509	Initiate Time Schedule	1	1 - Verification
510, 511	Reset Alarms	2	1 - Verification + Data
512, 513	Reset Controller	1	none
520, 521	Read Real-time Clock	1	2 - Verification + Data
522, 523	Set Real-time Clock (YY/MM/DD)	2	1 - Verification
524, 525	Set Real-time Clock (Hours & DST)	2	1 - Verification
526, 527	Set Real-time	2	1 - Verification

	Clock (Minutes)		
530, 531	Read Astronomic Data	1	2 - Verification + Data
532, 533	Set Astronomic Data (Latitude)	2	1 - Verification
534, 535	Set Astronomic Data (Longitude)	2	1 - Verification
536, 537	Set Astronomic Data (Sunset, Sunrise, GMT)	2	1 - Verification
540, 541	Get Radio Status	1	1 - Verification
544, 545	Suspend Radio from Service	1	1 - Verification
546, 547	Restore Radio to Service	1	1 - Verification
548, 549	Get Radio Registration Pass/Fail Count	1	1 - Verification + Data
550, 551	Get Switching Status	1	1 - Verification + Data
552, 553	Get System Port Status	1	1 - Verification + Data
554, 555	Run Diagnostic/Get Status	1	1 - Verification + Data

556, 557	Get DAU Current Mismatch	1	1-3 - Verification + Data
558, 559	Get DAU 1-6 Alarm Status	1	1-6 Verification + Data
560, 561	Set Group Occupant Warn Enable/Disable	2	1 - Verification
562, 563	Test Occupant Warn Output	2	1 - Verification
564, 565	Enable/Disable Motion Sensors	2	1 - Verification
566, 567	Enable/Disable Miscellaneous Flags	2	1 - Verification
570, 571	Set Remote Switches 5-8 to Group X	2	1 - Verification
572, 573	Set Remote Switches 1-4 to Group X	2	1 - Verification
574, 575	Set Relays 5-8 to Group X	2	1 - Verification
576, 577	Set Relays 1-4 to Group X	2	1 - Verification
580, 581	Get Channel 1-8 StartsTotalization	1	4 - Verification + Data
582, 583	Get Channel 1-8	1	8 - Verification



	Manual Mode Totalization		+ Data
584, 585	Get Channel 1-8 Auto Mode Totalization	1	8 - Verification + Data
586, 587	Get Relay 1-8 State + Reason Code	1	3 - Verification + Data
590, 591	Get REC Alarm Status	1	2 - Verification + Data
6XX, 7XX, 8XX, 9XX	Time Schedule Event Change	2	1 - Verification

### Message

Figure 23 shows a generic form of a command of a FOCC address page, a FOCC data page, a second FOCC data page and a registration response. A checksum is included in the verification to provide for error detection.

The checksum is the decimal sum of the last three digits of the address page added to the last three digits of the command page added to the last three digits of data page represented as an eight bit value. The result is then converted to a One's Complement and kept as a single 8-bit value.

It is to be understood that there may be one or multiple data pages in the FOCC direction and that

there may be one or multiple data pages in the registration response. This use for communicating data in the RECC direction is known in the art.